

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2014

6:30 PM

**James Madison Morton Middle School
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Sub-Committee Reports
5. Recognition Awards
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Committee of the Whole
9. Request for Executive Session
M.G.L. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3)
 - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, and FRAA and nonunion personnel including Fran Roy, Brian Mikolazyk, Kevin Almeida, Paula Soares, and Sonya Sousa.
10. New Business: Topics for discussion that could not reasonably be anticipated by the Chairman forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting
11. Addendum

MINUTES

At 6:41 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, January 13, 2014.

A roll call for attendance showed 6 members were present and 1 was absent (Mr. Hart).

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Adrian Bussiere, Parent

Discussion topic: Bullying

Mr. Bussiere thanked the Mayor's office and Attorney Assad for granting him permission to speak even though there is a no trespassing order against him. He said he would read his statement and leave as agreed.

Mr. Bussiere wanted to address bullying issues against his son. He claimed his son was not only being bullied by students but teachers and administrators as well. When they tried to address these concerns, they were labeled as "trouble makers" which made matters worse for his children. They had a meeting with the district bullying committee a couple of years ago and it was found that bullying had occurred but nothing was put in place to protect his son. He questioned why there is a committee if their findings are not recognized. His biggest concern is what parents should do when central administration ignores the situation even after meeting with the parents. He noted that they have all heard from people inside and outside of the school system that bullying is rampant in the schools and questioned where they go when it involves staff.

He asked the Committee to take the issue of bullying more seriously and find a way to enforce the policies in place or change them to something more enforceable. He feels it is time to hold people more accountable and put checks and balances in place that ensure children are educated in a bully-free environment.

Mr. Bussiere closed by saying that because of this bullying situation, he has been forced to pull his children out of the school system and homeschool them. He recited his phone number for anyone wishing to discuss these matters with him.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Flanagan: As Mayor he has the responsibility of appointing subcommittees for the Fall River School Committee. He noted that there were five subcommittees and announced the members who would serve on those committees:

Grievance

Mr. Joseph Martins – Chair

Mr. Gabe Andrade

Mr. Paul Hart

Finance

Mrs. Melissa Panchley – Chair
Mr. Mark Costa
Mr. Paul Hart

Evaluation/AIP

Mr. Gabe Andrade – Chair
Mr. Paul Hart
Mr. Bob Maynard

Facilities and Operations

Mr. Paul Hart – Chair
Mr. Mark Costa
Mr. Bob Maynard

Instructional/SPED

Mr. Joe Martins – Chair
Mr. Gabe Andrade
Mrs. Melissa Panchley

Mayor Flanagan noted that he did speak with members beforehand and considered their input when assigning the subcommittees.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the addendum.		
<u>No Discussion</u>		
6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Hart)	Motion passed

RECOGNITION REWARDS

Mr. Costa spoke on behalf of Mr. Hart who was unable to attend.

Nancy Mullen: Matthew J. Kuss Middle School turnaround efforts.

Maria Pontes & the Doran Elementary School Community: John J. Doran Elementary School turnaround efforts.

Michael Procaccini & the Kuss Middle School Community: Matthew J. Kuss Middle School turnaround efforts.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent: There was nothing to report at this meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the minutes as listed.
No Discussion
6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

DONATIONS

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To accept all donations as listed.
No Discussion
6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

TRAVEL

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To accept all travel requests as listed.
No Discussion
6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

CONTRACTS

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any objections to taking all contracts as listed. There were none.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept all contracts as listed.
No Discussion
6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

GRANTS

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any objections to taking all grants as listed.

Mr. Martins objected.

Mayor Flanagan asked what his objection was.

Mr. Martins questioned what program and how many students were involved in the \$10,952 line item for BCC classes and materials for classes that was listed in the Mass Grad Implementation grant.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the Committee had asked at the last meeting that they have staff available that had direct involvement with the writing and approval of the grants. She said that Associate Principal Curley from Durfee and Principal Vinacco from RPS were there and could explain. She added that the Mass Grad grant covered both high schools in this case.

Ms. Vinacco explained the current courses they are offering at RPS include the Serve Safe certification class for sanitation. They have a partnership with BCC where the professor goes to and delivers the instruction at RPS. There are approximately one dozen students in the class and they are looking to expand the partnership. She said they also offer the CSS class that she had spoken to the Committee

about a few months ago. In this course, the students go to BCC on Friday afternoons and take a college readiness class which is a part of it as well.

Mr. Martins thanked Ms. Vinacco and said he had questions regarding the SPED Program Improvement grant. He questioned who the consultants were that were listed for \$1,000 per day, what they would be doing, and what can be expected in return.

Mayor Flanagan called for Ms. Ivone Medeiros.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that Ms. Medeiros was not present and understood if the Committee wanted to hold on that grant. Ms. Medeiros did communicate to her that the \$20K for consultants is for linguistics, secondary staff, Math Advantage for paraprofessionals and Guided Discipline training for Stone and RPS.

Mr. Martins asked if it was a private company that was going to consult.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown gave an example that Guided Discipline is from Educators for Social Responsibility which is the company that would provide it. She could not recall who the linguistics company was but it does involve parent companies rather than individuals providing the training.

Mr. Martins had no further questions.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To accept all grants as listed.
6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Vote to Approve:** Election of Vice Chairperson of the Fall River School Committee.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair of the Fall River School Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Manynard – Mr. Andrade: To nominate Mr. Costa.

Hearing no other nominations, Mayor Flanagan closed the nomination process. He explained there was a motion made by Mr. Maynard to elect Mark Costa as the Vice-Chairperson of the Fall River School Committee which was seconded by Gabriel Andrade.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Absent	Mayor Flanagan: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan congratulated Mr. Costa and asked him to address the audience as is custom.

Mr. Costa: *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your vote of confidence in me as your Vice-Chairman. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Vice-Chairman for almost six years. Over the past several years, I have seen a marked improvement in the education that our ten thousand students receive on a daily basis. Those improvements are attributed to the hard work of our dedicated teachers, the leadership of principals and superintendent, the adequate funding by our Mayor, City Council, tax payers, and the support and advocacy of this Committee. The district is on a path to recovery because of the collaboration between the Superintendent and this Committee. The goal remains that all students are college and career ready upon graduation. There are going to be times when we as a Committee don't see eye to eye on issues and there are going to be times when we as a Committee will not agree with the educational proposals from the Superintendent. I ask that you join me in remaining focused on what is important to all of us and that is our top priority, our children in this District. Let's work as a unified governing body to advocate for sufficient educational funding. Let's commit ourselves as a whole to better communicate with the Superintendent. Let's remain steadfast in our duties to create and support educational policy. Let's allow the Superintendent to perform her duties with our support, guidance, and constructive criticism but refrain from interference that derails the progress. We have proven that when we collaborate and communicate with the labor unions and Superintendent that we can accomplish educational success. I just point tonight to the collaboration that occurred both at Doran and Kuss with all our labor organizations, with the administration, and with this body and we have seen the fruits of those labors. There is much work to be done in the upcoming term. Let's focus our attention on policies that make our classrooms safer and close the achievement gaps. Funding that focuses on lowering class size and providing a strong educational foundation for our youngest learners. As a Committee, let's complete the work in the AIP, specifically the evaluation of ourselves and of the Superintendent. In closing, I am grateful and humbled by your vote tonight and pledge to work closely with all of you, the Chairman and the Superintendent to continue the progress that we have all started."*

2. **First Read:** Policies and Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Bullying and Retaliation.

Mayor Flanagan explained that the definition of perpetrator had been amended to include a member of school staff including but not limited to an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to extra-curricular activities or paraprofessional. There has been no change to the definition of victim.

He then asked if there was a motion to adopt the first read.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To adopt the first read.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins called attention to Page 3, first full paragraph, last sentence *for any reports related to staff, Principals, Vice-Principals, or Superintendent, the Fall River Office of Human Resource and the respective Designee will make these determinations.* He said he assumed that the Designee would be a representative of the School Committee.

Mr. Martins continued to the third full paragraph's last sentence and noted that it basically said the same thing.

He moved on to Page 5, last paragraph, *The School Committee Designee will contact the Fall River Public Schools Human Resource Office to work collaboratively to investigate the complaint, respond according to the determination, and if the allegation is substantiated, take measures to insure that the bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation will not continue.* He noted this was stating that a Designee of the School Committee was going to contact the Human Resource Office and then the determination of the bullying would be jointly made by them both. He felt Human Resources already had its chance and it had been escalated to the School Committee. He recommended that the sentence read *The School Committee Designee will contact the Fall River Public Schools Human Resource Office to work collaboratively to investigate the complaint, if the allegation is substantiated, and recommend to the full Committee measures to insure that the bullying, cyber-bullying, or retaliation will not continue.* He felt the determination should be made by the full Committee and not just by two individuals, one being the Human Resource office. He noted again that it had already gone by that level to the School Committee level and the Designee from the School Committee should be making the recommendation to the full Committee in regards to what will be done to stop the bullying and if there are discipline measures being made to direct the Superintendent to implement.

Mayor Flanagan asked Attorney Diane Parent if she understood Mr. Martins suggestion.

Attorney Parent was not following the page number he was referring to but noted that when a complaint against a staff member is made, Human Resources has to become involved because of the contractual issues. She added that the School Committee would only become involved when a complaint is made against the Superintendent. Because the Superintendent is part of the staff, they also had to have a procedure if the parent is filing a complaint against the Superintendent. The recommendation is that the School Committee appoints a designee who would hear that complaint from the parent and then if the parent is still not pleased with the decision, they would go to the full Committee for an appeal.

Mr. Martins did not believe that is what the paragraph stated. He did not believe it showed progressive appeals.

Mayor Flanagan asked Attorney Parent if she agreed with that interpretation.

Attorney Parent responded that she thought there was some level of difficulty when a complaint is made against the Superintendent in terms of the appeal process which is why the committee is proposing that there be one School Committee member as the designee and initial contact person. The second level for the appeal would be to the full Committee.

Mayor Flanagan noted that this was the first read and suggested Mr. Martins meet with Attorney Parent to work out any ambiguity before they present the second read.

Mr. Martins agreed but then questioned staff to staff bullying.

Mayor Flanagan explained that the definition of victim is a student under the policies that have been adopted which he believes mirrors the law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Staff to staff bullying would fall under a different policy.

Mr. Martins asked that they consider further policy for staff to staff bullying and Mayor Flanagan agreed. It was agreed that this could be further discussed before the second read.

Mr. Costa asked regarding *Obligation to Notify*, if there was something specific in the law that outlined the timeframe in which notification was made. He asked if the 48 hours to notify was specific to the statute.

Attorney Parent said it was.

Mr. Costa asked if there was anything that precluded the district from making it less than 48 hours because he felt that was too long of a time period not to notify parents.

Mrs. Panchley asked if the public would have the opportunity to view the policy to have input.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said there are two agenda items with this one being Policies and Procedures and the next being the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. Once the Committee discussed the items that evening, they will go out to the community for a comment period.

Mrs. Panchley asked where it could be accessed.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it will be available on the district's website.

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion passed

3. **First Read:** Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To accept.

Mr. Costa seconded the motion with a question. He asked if they could implement as part of this policy a quarterly, bi-annual or annual report to inform the Committee of how many reports of bullying had been made and what the outcome was so they can have a reference point of what they are dealing with in the district.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley asked if the professional development that is noted on Page 2 of the document was available or mandatory for the staff.

Attorney Parent said it was mandatory and that it is required by law to have professional development yearly.

Mrs. Panchley responded that the way it is listed as "offered" makes it seem optional and thought it should be stated so that it is clear that it is mandatory professional development.

Mr. Andrade suggested that this item be on the agenda for the next two meetings while in its developmental stages so that the Committee is updated as to the plan's progress.

Mayor Flanagan said part of the process is for the Task Force to reconvene and discuss the changes mentioned and come back at the February meeting for further discussion. At that time, the Committee can move to adopt or make further changes and send it back.

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan noted that members of the Task Force were present and thanked them for working on this very important issue for the school district.

4. **Vote to Approve:** DESE Quarterly Progress Report, *as presented by Dr. Joan Connolly and Senior Associate Commissioner Lynda Foisy.*

Mayor Flanagan explained that it is noted in the report that the District continues to make progress in each of the four objectives of the AIP in terms of its improvement process, stages, and ratings.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To adopt the DESE Quarterly Progress Report.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins said he appreciates the work of the people at DESE but there always seems to be a “dig” noting what is stated in the first paragraph. He felt the statements were general and not specific. He also felt the second paragraph was critical of the Chair with regards to December’s meeting which he disagreed with as well. He believes the general public has a right to be heard whether it be on the agenda items listed or not.

Mr. Andrade echoed Mr. Martin’s sentiments regarding the criticism of the Chair’s public input decision. He added that introducing the new rules for public input has in effect eliminated the appeal of last resort by the citizens and he has not seen anything to replace that. He was also disappointed to see the rehash of the vote on the Innovation School.

Mr. Costa noted this was a quarterly review that runs from July to December. He asked Dr. Connolly regarding the capturing of the December 9 meeting, if the Chair had asked for a motion to suspend the rules to allow for the extended time and topic during citizens input, if it would have read differently. He felt it looked very negative but with such a large reporting period, this was the only issue.

Dr. Connolly explained that the way the monitoring works is that there is a monthly review of progress on the goals (AIP) or lack of progress and in the case of that particular meeting it clearly appeared to her that there was a setback in an area that had a lot of attention over the last many months. She cited in the report the guidance from Judge Fernandes on that very issue. She felt this was an area that had been a challenge for the Committee where there had appeared to be some progress and at a particular time during the monitoring period there was a setback in progress that was of enough concern to be noted in the report.

Mr. Costa said that Policy Adherence covers all of their policies and asked if it was safe to say that the State felt that they have adhered to the policies that they have adopted.

Dr. Connolly said Mr. Pavao had other examples of progress in this area but for the area that was under particular oversight of Judge Fernandes for a year, it really stood out as something that was a step backwards and required her to bring it to the attention of the Committee.

Mr. Costa said he is not criticizing the fact that she brought attention to it but is asking where the balance was because it seemed from July until December, policy adherence went well except for the December 9th incident. He asked again if the Chair had asked for a vote to suspend rules, if the report would have read differently.

Dr. Connolly said she did not know, she only knew what happened that evening which is cited in the report.

Mr. Costa said he can take the criticisms but is just asking for some balance. He then referred to Section 3.4 where it specifically speaks to a vote that was controversial which he disagreed with. He felt there was spirited discussion and a lot of input from different sides. "I read in here that as part of the evidence, you listened to the radio station and some tapes of callers calling in."

Dr. Connolly interrupted "and read articles from the newspaper and followed up with a discussion with Chairman Pavao which resulted in his responding to my issue which is noted in the report."

Mr. Costa "Right, so I notice all the talk about the media, the radio, listening to the callers calling in with their opinions on it, all of which who knows who those individuals were. I know I don't and I know you asked for individual comments to be grounded in fact when speaking of public input."

Dr. Connolly interjected that Chairman Flanagan asked for comments to be grounded in fact.

Mr. Costa "Right and you referenced it as who knows if they were grounded in fact." He continued that his point was that when she evidenced telephone calls to a radio station, who knows if that is grounded in fact. He said what strikes him is that she said she went to lengths of listening and reading media articles on it and spoke to Mr. Pavao. Of that entire paragraph, the last sentence says that when she spoke to Mr. Pavao, he stated the Committee needed more information about the proposed school. Mr. Costa questioned her as to whether she spoke to any member of the Committee as to why they took a particular position on the vote. He said he shared his reasons and feels that this paragraph falls short again.

Dr. Connolly said the monitoring process could speak to something else that she spoke about when writing the report which is the matter of having the entire School Committee, as part of their regular agenda, begin to do some full Committee self-monitoring around the goals and initiatives to the plan which could lead to a fuller voice. As she noted in the report, during the months of this monitoring, Mr. Pavao took his responsibility very seriously and put a lot of time and work and effort into making sure that he captured documents and pieces of evidence that would support progress and they would also discuss if there were setbacks or lack of progress in certain areas. Currently, that is the opportunity the Committee has to funnel what their perceptions based on evidence would be. She suggested a regular agenda item to discuss their goals on AIP.

Mr. Costa and Dr. Connolly had more discussion as to why the Innovation School vote was rehashed and included in the monitoring report.

Mr. Costa once again said he is just looking for some balance.

Mr. Costa and Dr. Connolly had further discussion regarding having a monthly agenda item for School Committee meetings to engage all members in assessing the progress of the School Committee AIP.

Mayor Flanagan said looking through the report, she was very clear that the DESE was critical in his listening to comments that were made at the last meeting regarding public safety in the school district.

Dr. Connolly responded it was not critical about listening to comments but the fact that there is a policy in place and the first objective of the AIP is policy adherence and embedding the policy into practice. That is what the report speaks to, not to do with his listening but with policy and his following of the policy or not.

Mayor Flanagan said the DESE was critical of him as Chair for waiving policy to listen to the concerns at the last meeting.

Dr. Connolly said it was a policy that had been worked on over many months and had particular guidance under the oversight of Judge Fernandes.

Mayor Flanagan asked in her opinion if there is ever an exception to a policy.

Dr. Connolly said it is not about her opinion.

Mayor Flanagan said it is her report, she is the monitor.

Dr. Connolly said the way she gauges progress or not is not through opinion but rather evidence that is presented or not presented on progress through meeting the goals and initiative.

Mayor Flanagan asked as the monitor, if she believed there is ever an exception to an established policy.

Dr. Connolly said there could be an exception.

Mayor Flanagan asked if the public safety of children is or is not an exception.

Dr. Connolly said that is not her job there.

Mayor Flanagan said she was critical of him for not adhering to policy to listen to concerns about children's safety but he feels if there is any exception to the rule that is it.

Dr. Connolly said there is always opportunity for exception to policy but what she is doing is monitoring the plan which the Committee agreed to make progress in the District.

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion passed

5. **Vote to Approve:** New School Committee Evaluation Tool.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the new School Committee Evaluation Tool.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins explained that one of the issues he has with this is the understanding of the rating which he brought up at the subcommittee meeting. He feels it is important that everyone understand the difference that it is not the statement that they are rating but the outcome of the statement. He cited some examples and noted that he had most issue with the definitions.

Dr. Kelly explained that they have to keep in mind that the evaluation is based upon a set of operational protocols that the Committee has adopted as statements that describe values they have in their role as School Committee members. It is not the quality or significance of the statement. In the operation protocols, they have said “we are committed to represent the needs and interests of all children in the district.” The point of having that in this document is to generate some discussion amongst the Committee members around that statement. He added that the second column is there to help them prioritize which items need to be addressed first.

Dr. Kelly continued that there are very detailed rubrics involved in the teachers and administrators evaluations that they can collect evidence on and peg a decision on each of the criteria. The School Committee operates at a different level. They are at a policy level where they have to set the tone for the district and the decisions that are made pursuant to the act of setting policy. The point is not so much to do an evaluation and draw a conclusion on the basis of how they think about how well they are meeting the needs of the kids; but to initiate a dialogue that can provide the Committee with a way to focus their efforts.

Mr. Martins said he thinks they are saying the same thing but he has a different terminology.

6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Hart)	Motion passed
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6. Discussion: AESOP Substitute Teacher Search.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Andrade: To accept the Automated Substitute Placement and Absence Management system for substitute teaching.

Discussion:

Mr. Costa said he saw there was a considerable cost savings but asked about the individuals that are currently doing the work.

Ms. LeMaire said there are currently ten employees who are devoted to that.

Mr. Costa asked if this would violate anyone’s contractual rights under collective bargaining.

Ms. LeMaire said no.

Mr. Costa said he did not have a problem with it and know they have looked at it in the past but he is just concerned about grievances by individuals currently doing the work who will be losing job duties or compensation.

Ms. LeMaire said no and that this would free them up to work on other areas.

Mr. Costa questioned if it was a provision in their contract that would be violated and he wants to be clear that it will not be a violation of the contracts.

Ms. LeMaire said she did not believe so but could look into it.

Mr. Coogan said this specific duty is handled by a variety of different people in different bargaining units. It is not part of a particular bargaining unit's duties and is handled on a stipend or overtime basis depending on the way the person is paid.

Mr. Costa asked if they had gone through this with the members that are currently doing the work and the representatives from those bargaining units. He said again that he did not have a problem with it but just did not want to run into further difficulties down the road and the cost savings they thought they were getting are gone.

Ms. LeMaire said they can review this and bring it back to the Committee.

Mr. Maynard asked if it was going to cost more money or save money.

Mr. Coogan said it would be less money.

Mr. Martins said he is hearing that they would like to table this motion until they have answers.

Mr. Coogan said it would be the Committee's decision.

AMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Costa: To table this item until next month to give time to research if this would be a violation of collective bargaining units.

No Discussion

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion passed

7. **Vote to Approve:** Job Description, *Director* of Alternative Middle School.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the job description for the Director of the Alternative Middle School.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins asked if any movement had been made and what the status was of implementing the Alternative Middle School.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they provided an update at the December meeting and those updates are still well under way. They are in the process of hiring staff for those positions and noted they are still seeking a science teacher. Their hope is to open for students February 3, 2014. January 27 is a full

professional development day for staff and there is no school for students. That will be the first day for staff at the Alternative Middle School so that they can begin their trainings which will occur throughout that week.

Mr. Martins apologized noting that he was not present at the December meeting and missed the updates.

Mr. Costa asked what the capacity of the school would be.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they anticipate opening up with forty-five students February 3 and will have some ability to grow.

Mr. Costa said he is asking because they are going to be taking votes on two positions, Director and Assistant Director, and questioned a need for an assistant if the program is not going to grow.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they had initially come to the Committee with opening with 50-75 students. The schools have gone through the process of identifying students and meeting families and are slated to open with forty-five with room to grow. They have not discussed setting a cap.

Mr. Costa said he just wants to know if two administrative positions can be justified but he is hearing there will be an attempt to expand if needed.

6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Hart)	Motion passed
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Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Costa if he wished to table item number 8 at this time.

Mr. Costa said he did not and feels the questions have been answered. He was just looking at the equity and resources.

8. **Vote to Approve:** Job Description, *Assistant Director* of Alternative Middle School.

Mr. Andrade said he asked at the previous meeting if an Assistant Director was needed for a small program and the explanation he was given was that the Assistant Director would have specific responsibilities for a therapeutic aspect of the program. He has not seen anything related to that in the job description.

Mayor Flanagan noted that the job description does indicate guidance and counseling matters.

Mr. Andrade thought the description was a "little thin."

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was not the intent. They did not want to carve out the responsibilities because they anticipate, given the needs of the students, it will be both academic and therapeutic and a great deal of crossover between the two positions in dealing with these matters.

Mr. Andrade felt it should be reflected in their qualifications.

Ms. LeMaire noted that under the third bullet point it was listed "Experience in social-emotional learning at the appropriate level" which was added to address those concerns.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Martins: To adopt the job description for the Assistant Director of the Alternative Middle School.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins asked about the capacity again.

Mayor Flanagan said that the Superintendent indicated they would start with forty-five students and grow from there.

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

9. **Vote to Approve:** Naming of the Alternative Middle School as “Choice Academy,” and Spirit Wear.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To adopt the “Choice Academy.”

Discussion:

Mr. Martins said that the word “Choice” leads him to believe that students would have a choice to attend. They had voted at a previous meeting to make admittance mandatory on referral. He suggested that the name be something other than “Choice.”

Mrs. Panchley said she understood from reading that the reason it came about was because the students were going to learn to make good “choices” but agrees with Mr. Martins that the name seems to go against the “no choice” discussion.

Mayor Flanagan asked if the maker of the motion wished to withdraw it.

Mr. Maynard said he did not.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: No	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: No	Mrs. Panchley: No
Mr. Hart: Absent	Mayor Flanagan: No
Mr. Martins: No	

1 yay 5 nays 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion DENIED

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any other suggestions for the school name.

Mr. Andrade suggested they consider Good Choices Academy to keep with what the makers of the original proposed name intended.

There was no second.

Mr. Martins made a motion for Middle School Academy.

There was no second.

Mrs. Panchley suggested they wait until after executive session to decide on a name to have a little time to think about it.

Mayor Flanagan agreed to hold item number nine.

10. **Vote to Approve:** The license agreement between Jobs for Fall River INC. d/b/a Fall River Office of Economic Development and the City of Fall River for lease of space at 139 South Main Street, Fall River, MA for use by the FRPS middle school alternative program.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the license agreement.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: No	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Absent	Mayor Flanagan: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

5 yays 1 nay 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

11. **Vote to Approve:** Superintendent’s Educator Plan.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Superintendent’s Educator Plan.

No Discussion

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

12. **Vote to Approve:** December Expenditure Report.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the report.

No Discussion

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

13. **Vote to Approve:** Budget Transfers for the Alternative Middle School.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the budget transfers.

No Discussion

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

14. **Vote to Approve:** First Quarter Revolving Funds and November monthly report.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To accept.

No Discussion

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To place the For Your Information portion of the agenda on file.

<u>No Discussion</u>	6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Hart)	Motion passed
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Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Secretary to send letters of condolence to the bereavements listed.

ADDENDUM

Mayor Flanagan noted there was an addendum item:

Vote to approve: A request from Durfee High School’s Parent Advisory Council regarding the use of the Nagle Auditorium for Beatle Mania with a one day beer/wine license on Saturday, April 12, 2014. All money raised will benefit the After Prom Party.

	MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To accept.		
<u>No Discussion</u>	6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Hart)	Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martins referred to the report in the Superintendent’s information packet regarding the conditions for learning survey. He had questions on the graph and asked what the unit of measure was.

Dr. Roy explained that this is a survey given to students and explained how the students rate the survey. It is a scale and what he is seeing is the students who chose a positive outcome. She said it is an average of the positive results.

Mr. Martins asked if the measure was percentage.

Dr. Roy said that was correct.

Mr. Martins then asked about the benchmark update numbers and where they come from.

Dr. Roy said they are internal district benchmarks that predict how well a child is going to do on MCAS. They try to look at if they are improving from last year which is the comparisons that he has.

Mr. Martins said he saw a lot of negatives in the report which would tend to indicate that they are going in the wrong direction.

Dr. Roy said it is mixed data with some schools and grade levels doing really well and some indicators that are not doing so well. She explained that they are “dip sticks” for a point in time. More importantly the teachers use them to identify student need to see what students need a little bit more or they reflect on their own practice. It is meant for mid-course corrections.

Mr. Martins said he appreciates that as long as he understands what the numbers mean.

Mr. Martins then referenced a study done by the Rennie Center.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that Fall River was highlighted in a positive way both by the Rennie Center and by the Board of Education. Fall River is one of the very few districts where the Committee educates students who have been excluded or long term suspended from school.

Mr. Martins asked how long the program had been going on for.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they refer to it as the homebound tutoring which is a line item in the budget and they have supported students who are out of school for as long as she can remember.

Mr. Martins said he liked the program, he just didn't recall knowing about it.

Mr. Martins continued that he was disappointed on a couple of issues. One being the Talbot Innovation One-Year Evaluation. In reading through it, it seems to be very positive but he feels it is contrary to the rumblings he gets. He wondered if it was submitted to the faculty as a no name survey if there would be high support of the evaluation. What he has been hearing is quite a bit different than the positive aspect of the report. He commented that it had already been sent to the Department of Education.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it had not been sent yet. It was completed at the school and was submitted to her. She did not alter it in any way. As she read through it she thought it was factual in that the Department is asking a question and the school is providing bulleted items that seemed to be factually based. She doesn't see in the report where the Department is asking for perceptions or feelings about it.

Mr. Martins said he was told there were no faculty meetings all of last year.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that that was not accurate. She added that she is provided with minutes of their faculty meetings, agenda items, etc. She believes this year with Ms. Francisco everything has gone to a faculty vote including changes in the governing structure, new positions, interviewing candidates for positions. In terms of the report, Mrs. Francisco can back everything up with documentation.

Mr. Martins asked if the majority of the faculty would agree with the report.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she was unsure but again, it asked specific, programmatic questions and Talbot responded to those programmatic questions. She cannot find a question in what the Department is asking for that gets at what he is speaking of.

ITEM #9: Mayor Flanagan said he would like to revisit item number 9 and asked if there was a motion for the naming of the school to be the Resiliency Preparatory Middle School.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Martins: To name the school the Resiliency Preparatory Middle School.

No Discussion

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion passed

Mr. Costa asked that they also take up the issue of Spirit Wear for the newly named Resiliency Preparatory Middle School.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Spirit Wear as presented to the Committee.

Discussion:

Mr. Andrade said that sometimes there is concern on the part of parents where the students were wearing Spirit Wear at their previous school and now they have to change their shirts and wondered if that had been dealt with.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it had been. They do not want parents to have to buy new pants so that will be consistent with what the other middle schools are doing and they talked about a solution for shirts.

Mr. Coogan explained when they have had a mid-year change for a student or a parent has had difficulty, they have helped them out and done a swap and can accommodate that.

6 in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed

Mrs. Panchley said she had new business she wanted to discuss.

Mayor Flanagan recognized her.

Mrs. Panchley said she had spoken to the Superintendent about the School Committee looking into a field trip policy for parents. It has been her experience with her children at three different schools that there is no policy and is somewhat inconsistent depending on where a child goes to school. At one school, parents drove to the field trip and paid their own way, yet there was a limit as to how many could attend. She felt when they spoke of parent engagement and the AIP, Initiative 3.2 *Empower parents through enhanced school/home connections*; she feels this is a little thing they can do to make parents feel more welcome. She added that she knows some schools put the parents on the bus and she does not want the schools to incur more costs for buses but feels they could allow parents who have been CORI checked and willing to drive up to attend.

Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Superintendent if she could work with School Committeewoman Panchley regarding the field trip policy.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they had spoken and are requesting information from MASC to see if there are any policies already in place and if not, they will draft a policy and present it to the School Committee to get it in place before field trips get active for the school year.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Assad: “ Executive session will be for the purpose of Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, and FRAA and nonunion personnel including Fran Roy, Brian Mikolazyk, Kevin Almeida, Paula Soares, and Sonya Sousa. We would reconvene. There may or may not be statements at that time.”

MOTION: Mr. Costa - Mr. Andrade: For executive session.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Absent	Mayor Flanagan: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

6 nays 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed (8:46 PM)

MOTION: Mr. Costa - Mr. Andrade: To reconvene.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Absent	Mayor Flanagan: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

6 nays 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion passed (9:42 PM)

Mr. Costa said he would like reconsideration of a prior vote regarding the naming of the alternative middle school.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To reconsider the prior vote with the naming of the alternative middle school; reconsideration that the name be changed to the Resiliency Middle School.

No Discussion

6 were in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the agreement between the Clerical Association and the Fall River Public Schools.

No Discussion

6 were in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Sonya Sousa as negotiated.

No Discussion

6 were in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract for Brian Mikolazyk as negotiated with the Fall River Public Schools.

No Discussion

6 were in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract of Paula Soares, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, with the Fall River Public Schools as negotiated.

No Discussion

6 were in favor 1 absent (Mr. Hart) Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Dr. Fran Roy as negotiated.

No Discussion

6 were in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To adjourn.

No Discussion

6 were in favor

1 absent (Mr. Hart)

Motion approved (9:44 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services